

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claim 4.

Please amend Claims 1 - 3 as follows:

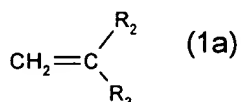
1. (amended) A crosslinkable or polymerizable prepolymer that is obtained by
(a) copolymerizing at least one hydrophilic monomer having one ethylenically unsaturated double bond and at least one crosslinker comprising two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds in the presence of a chain transfer agent having a functional group; and

(b) reacting one or more functional groups of the chain transfer agent comprised in the resulting copolymer with an organic compound having an ethylenically unsaturated group;

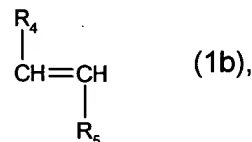
wherein the crosslinker according to step (a) is a polysiloxane, perfluoroalkyl polyether or polysiloxane/perfluoroalkyl polyether block copolymer comprising in each case two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds;

wherein the hydrophilic monomer is a monomer which gives, as a homopolymer, a polymer which is water-soluble or can absorb at least 10% by weight of water.

2. (amended) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



or



wherein R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or a radical -C(O)OY₉, wherein Y₉ is hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R₅ is a radical -C(O)Y₉' or -CH₂-C(O)OY₉' wherein Y₉' independently has the meaning of Y₉; and

R₃ is

- (i) a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of -OH, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and -NRR', wherein R and R' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or phenyl; phenyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or -NRR', wherein R and R' are as defined above; a radical -COOY, wherein Y is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, -O-Si(CH₃)₃, -NRR' wherein R and R' are as defined above, a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E wherein E is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, or a radical -NH-C(O)-O-G, wherein -O-G is the radical of a saccharide with 1 to 8 sugar units or is a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E, wherein E is as defined above, or Y is C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or is unsubstituted or C₁-C₄-alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted phenyl or C₇₋₁₂-aralkyl; -CONY₁Y₂ wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, a radical -CH(OR₁₈)₂ wherein R₁₈ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₂-C₅-alkanoyl, or a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E wherein E is as defined above, or Y₁ and Y₂ together with the adjacent N-atom form a five- or six-membered heterocyclic ring having no additional heteroatom or one additional oxygen or

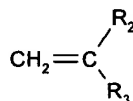
nitrogen atom; a radical $-OY_3$, wherein Y_3 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl which is substituted by $-NRR'$; or is a radical $-C(O)-C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl; and wherein R and R' are as defined above; or a five- to seven-membered heterocyclic radical having at least one N-atom and being bound in each case via said nitrogen atom; or

(ii) an anionic substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkyl which is substituted by $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, $-OPO_3H_2$ and $-COOH$; phenyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of $-SO_3H$, $-COOH$, $-OH$ and $-CH_2-SO_3H$; $-COOH$; a radical $-COOY_4$, wherein Y_4 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-COOH$, $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, $-OPO_3H_2$ or by a radical $-NH-C(O)-O-G'$ wherein G' is the radical of an anionic carbohydrate; a radical $-CONY_5Y_6$ wherein Y_5 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-COOH$, $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, or $-OPO_3H_2$ and Y_6 independently has the meaning of Y_5 or is hydrogen or C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl; or $-SO_3H$; or a salt thereof; or

(iii) a cationic substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl which is substituted by a radical $-NRR'R''^+An^-$, wherein R , R' and R'' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or phenyl, and An^- is an anion; or a radical $-C(O)OY_7$, wherein Y_7 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-NRR'R''^+An^-$ and is further unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, wherein R , R' , R'' and An^- are as defined above; or

(iv) a zwitterionic substituent $-R_1-Zw$, wherein R_1 is a direct bond or a carbonyl, carbonate, amide, ester, dicarboanhydride, dicarboimide, urea or urethane group; and Zw is an aliphatic moiety comprising one anionic and one cationic group each.

3. (amended) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



(1a)

wherein R_2 is hydrogen or methyl and R_3 is a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of $-COO-C_1$ - C_2 -alkyl, $-COO-(CH_2)_{2-4}-OH$, $-CONH_2$, $-CON(CH_3)_2$,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_2-OH$, $-CONH-(CH_2)_{1-3}-CH(OC_1-C_2-alkyl)$, $\begin{matrix} O \\ || \\ -C-N-C_1-C_2-alkyl \\ | \\ CH_2CH_2-OH \end{matrix}$,

